

WEEKLY MORGUES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Cheap Art is a good thing. If we cannot have masters old or new, by all means give us cheapos, photographs, and illustrated newspapers. But cheap art, like all other popular goods, is liable. I suggest, to fall into well-tramped and dirty ruts. Let me, in behalf of boys and babies, utter a word of remonstrance for the editors of our pictorial papers. Ever since the Franco-Prussian war began, they felt it their duty to give us a weekly panorama of its battles and besieges were attacked by flying artists in every conceivable point—in front, in flank, in camp, city, balloon, or sewer. We had the Prussian in masses, and the Prussians in sores. We were called upon to regard him not only in attack or defense, but as he snored, or smoked, or sipped his lager beer. Especially was he a favorite son of art, when presented in *disjectis membris*. We had the Prussian legless, armless, and dismembered. Nor was Paris—gaunt, gauntly, and hunger-blitten—less enticing to these popular artists. Starvation of men, women and babies has been so long their favorite theme that last week nothing was left but to present the lean ribs and gaping jaws of the famished street crew. All this we bore with patience. Perhaps an occasional doubt arose whether this or any war was not in its inception and meaning a terrible savage problem for the consideration of older heads, rather than a matter of entertainment in all its grisly details for children. That two ambitious Powers grapple each other in deadly conflict is reason, it is true, that the attention of the world should be given them. But why need we Americans go, jackal-like, over the battle-field, and drag our children along with us, to see the carnage and turn over the dead bones? As we can do nothing to stay this bloody business, let us, in God's name, send what help we can to the sufferers, and turn to our own wholesome and higher work for struggling humanity. I believe that very little good accrues from this incessant crying of "Alas poor York" over dead Gauls and Teutons. If Hamlet had taken himself to his own business, in lieu of smelling skulls and parleying with ghosts, he would have been a man of different weight in his day. In short, funeral bated meats coldly furnish forth any banquet, but hashed *ad nauseam* for children at Christmas time, are an outrage and not to be borne.

Having exhausted the war, our artists, too, turn homeward for new views of misery. We have submitted from the Five Points, from the mud-holes of England, factory girls, and women with wanton women. Next comes the horrible as they are sometimes, always enforce a high lesson; but in these there is no element above foulness and disgust. They rarely come to measure up to my expectations, the most execrable diction of the literature of such nastiness. Our bowls are tired of yearning. What we want in a pictorial paper is a glimpse of things in the outer world which are helpful, and of some good, and not of any bad. —Morgan, Laddie, and the rest of the breakfast-table. We live after all in a cheerful world with a God and good over it, and it is as well to keep our children in mind of this. As for pictures material, it may be worth while for artists to remember that the world is full of color, and a variety of scenes from the pine woods of Maine to the hills of Mexico, and the home life of millions of people of every nationality under heaven. Among these they can surely find subjects of equal interest, effectiveness, and interest than the lean ribs of Paris dogs, or the second hand clothes of Manchester operatives.

New-York, Jan. 12, 1871.

New Publications.

AMERICAN PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHIC CO.,
OFFICE has been removed to No. 103 Broadway, N. Y.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC
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This popular Political and Statistical Annual, prepared with great care, is now ready.

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CALENDAR.—Geological, Physical, and Political.

CLIMATE.—Report of the National Weather Service of the United States, with per-

centage of rain, &c., for 1869.

COAST.—Map of the Coasts of the United States.

CLOUDS.—Report of the Department of the Treasury.

COMMERCE.—Report of the Department of the Treasury.

CONSTITUTION.—The Constitution of the United States.

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